

NEWS RELEASE

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Former State Administrator and Three Employees Charged with Fraud, Cover-up

Springfield, IL – A federal grand jury today charged a former administrator with the Illinois Secretary of State's Office and three night janitors with a scheme that allowed the janitors to receive their full pay, totalling more than \$150,000, while working a fraction of their full-time hours, as announced by Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois. Cecil Turner, 59, 2100 East Lawrence, Springfield, who was Director of the Secretary of State's Physical Services Division, is charged with six counts of wire fraud along with the janitors: Dana Dinora, age 52, 1500 S. 4th Street, Springfield, and two members of Dinora's janitorial crew, David Medvesek, 56, of 2 Timberlake Drive, Springfield, and Steven Boyce, 58, of 25 Ptarmigan, Chatham, Illinois. In addition to the six counts of wire fraud, Turner faces two additional counts of making false statements for allegedly lying to law enforcement agents.

U.S. Attorney Heaton said, "Blatant abuse of the government's payroll taints the public's perception and undermines the spirit of the thousands of state workers who devote their careers to public service. Those who misuse their positions, whether line employee or management, will be held accountable and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

The investigation was conducted by the Inspector General for the Illinois Secretary of State and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Gregory M. Gilmore and Patrick J. Chesley.

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White said, "Today's indictments send a strong message to the public and to our employees that I will not tolerate inappropriate conduct in the Secretary of State's Office. This investigation began in my Inspector General's Office, and I want to commend Jim Burns and his staff, United States Attorney Heaton, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for pursuing this matter."

Weysan Dun, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Springfield Division, stated, "A breach in morality, left unchecked, breeds corruption. Public servants who abuse their positions and misuse taxpayer funds pollute society and weaken public trust in their government. The FBI considers the investigation of corruption to be one of its highest priorities. The FBI will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to ensure that corrupt officials are held accountable in the same manner as anyone who violates the law. This indictment will also put dishonest individuals on notice that lying to FBI Agents during an official investigation is a federal crime. The vast majority of public officials are trustworthy and are encouraged, together with members of the public, to report corruption to the FBI, who will aggressively and confidentially investigate such allegations."

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As alleged in the indictment, the fraud scheme began in or about April 1999 and continued until the end of August 2005. During this time, Turner was responsible for maintenance of certain state-owned or occupied buildings including the Herndon building and the Court of Claims building in Springfield. The three janitors were employed full-time by the Physical Services Division; however, there were at least two levels of supervisors between Turner and the janitors.

Until March 31, 2004, according to the indictment, Dinora was also employed full-time as a supervisor for the city of Springfield's Public Works Department. Frequently during the scheme, the indictment alleges Turner contacted Dinora to request that he direct city employees to perform work at or near Turner's residence and on some occasions at other locations. This work allegedly included expediting removal of leaves, tree limbs and other yard waste; removal and disposal of Turner's and others' trash; and, removal and disposal of campaign signs.

The indictment alleges that shortly after Turner became Director of Physical Services, he promoted Dinora to the lead janitor position over the night janitorial crew at the buildings where Dinora worked. As part of the scheme, the indictment alleges that Dinora, Medvesek and Boyce devised a system to enable them to receive their full pay despite working only a fraction of their official duty hours, from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. As the scheme progressed, the number of hours increased for which the janitors were paid without working.

The indictment alleges Dinora did little work for his salary, rarely arriving at work when his shift was scheduled to begin, at or near 3:00 p.m., normally not until after 10:00 p.m., and that he typically spent less than 30 minutes at work each day. Beginning in January 2004, the indictment alleges both Medvesek and Boyce, with Dinora's approval, adopted a system that enabled them to work minimal hours on alternating days and to leave early every day without taking leave. Under the system, one allegedly left work usually before 5:00 p.m. and the other left usually before 10:00 p.m.

The indictment alleges the three janitors developed a variety of ways to conceal their absences from work without taking leave including leaving notes in the janitors' area of one building indicating they were at another site. Beginning in the spring of 2005, Medvesek and Boyce, with Dinora's knowledge and approval, allegedly created two sets of daily attendance sheets - one falsely reporting that all hours of the shift were worked and a second set showing leave was used for the unauthorized time they were absent during their respective shift. According to the indictment, if no supervisory staff questioned the janitors' work status, the set of paperwork falsely showing that all hours of the shift had been worked was submitted.

When Dinora's immediate supervisors questioned the amount of time that Dinora, Medvesek or Boyce were working, Dinora notified Turner so he was aware and could prevent any potential disciplinary actions from being taken against the janitors. The indictment cites four different supervisors whom Turner either advised not to check up on Dinora again or who were relieved of their duties or reprimanded when they reported that Dinora and his crew were not working when they should have been.

According to the indictment, in August 2005, Turner was advised by investigators from the Inspector General's Office for the Illinois Secretary of State that the three janitors were being investigated for not being at work during their official duty hours, and Turner was asked not to tell the janitors of the investigation. However, on September 9, 2005, the indictment alleges Turner personally warned Dinora that the Inspector General was investigating the janitors and that he needed to make sure he submitted leave slips if he was not at work.

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Turner is also charged with making false statements to FBI agents regarding his knowledge of the janitors' work during two separate interviews on October 13, 2005, and again on November 11, 2005.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

If convicted, the offense of wire fraud carries a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison. For making false statements, the maximum statutory penalty is five years imprisonment.

The Clerk of the U.S. District Court will issue a summons to each of the four defendants to appear in federal court in Springfield at a date to be determined by the court.

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